

In the claims:

The following replaces any and all previously pending claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A modified IgG comprising a modified hinge region containing one or more amino acid substitutions at position 233, 234, 235, 236, 237 or 239 of human IgG, as numbered according to the EU index as in Kabat, and/or an amino acid substitution at position 249 of a human IgG heavy chain, as numbered according to the EU index as in Kabat, said modified IgG exhibiting reduced degradation upon heating to 55°C for one week, as determined by mass spectrometry, as compared to a corresponding wild-type IgG not comprising said one or more amino acid substitutions.
2. (Original) The modified IgG of claim 1 which is an IgG1.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 1 which is an IgG2 or an IgG3.
5. – 7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) The modified IgG of claim 1 which is humanized.
9. (Original) The modified IgG of claim 1 which is human.
10. – 18. (Canceled)
19. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the modified IgG of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
20. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 which is a liquid formulation.

21. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 which is formulated for parenteral, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intranasal, or pulmonary delivery.

22. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 wherein said IgG is stable at ambient temperature for at least 1 year as determined by high-performance size exclusion chromatography (HPSEC).

23. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 wherein said IgG is stable at 40°C for at least 100 days as determined by HPSEC.

24. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 wherein said IgG is stable at 4°C for at least 3 years as determined by HPSEC.

25. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 wherein said IgG is stable at 4°C for 3-5 years as determined by HPSEC.

26. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 wherein said IgG is stable at 4°C for at least 5 years as determined by HPSEC.

27. – 42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 2, wherein the substitution at position 233 is a substitution with alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, glutamine, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, or valine,

44. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 2, wherein the substitution at position 234 is a substitution with alanine, arginine, asparagine, cysteine, glutamic acid, glutamine, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, or valine.

45. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 2, wherein the substitution at position 235 is a substitution with alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine,

glutamic acid, glutamine, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, or valine.

46. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 2, wherein the substitution at position 236 is a substitution with alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamic acid, glutamine, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, tryptophan, tyrosine, or valine.

47. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 2, wherein the substitution at position 237 is a substitution with alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamic acid, glutamine, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, or valine.

48. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 2, wherein the substitution at position 239 is a substitution with alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamic acid, glutamine, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, serine, tryptophan, tyrosine, or valine.

49. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 2, wherein the substitution at position 249 is a substitution with valine or isoleucine.

50. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 1 which is an IgG4.

51. (Previously Presented) The modified IgG of claim 50, wherein the substitution at position 236 is a substitution with proline.